

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6543

As of February 11, 2008

Title: An act relating to creating a central Puget Sound regional transit authority.

Brief Description: Creating a central Puget Sound regional tolling authority.

Sponsors: Senators Murray and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/05/08.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Generally, under current law tolls on state transportation facilities must first be authorized by the Legislature, with toll rates set by the Washington Transportation Commission. However, some local and regional governments have limited tolling authority. For example, under certain circumstances, cities, port districts, transportation benefit districts, and regional transportation investment districts may authorize tolls within their respective jurisdictions.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee was not considered.

SUMMARY OF BILL (Proposed Substitute): A five-member regional transportation corridor authority (RTCA) may be established to plan, finance, and manage the SR 520 and I-90 corridor. The purpose of the RTCA is to provide for a comprehensive and integrated corridor-based multimodal regional transportation system within a defined transportation corridor. The RTCA has authority to submit a system management and financing proposal to applicable voters. The RTCA, in order to implement the plan, may impose tolls and demand management charges, and up to a 0.8 percent motor vehicle excise tax. The RTCA also has bonding authority. The RTCA has final authority over state transportation improvements within the corridor.

The RTCA governing board includes the following members: (1) the Secretary of the Department of Transportation; (2) the Mayor of Seattle; (3) an appointee representing the eastside of Lake Washington; (4) the King County executive; and (5) the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Other RTCAs may be created to serve other transportation corridors in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, governed by an adjusted governing body representing the appropriate

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jurisdictions in the corridor. Additionally, the Joint Transportation Committee is provided funding to conduct a feasibility study regarding providing this authority to other regions in the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: OTHER: The Commission supports the requirement that any tolls imposed under this bill must be consistent with state tolling polices.

Persons Testifying: OTHER: Dick Ford, Washington Transportation Commission.